(d) if so, what will be the total contribution to be made by Centre and States?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (d) On the request of the Government, the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has prepared financial estimates for Rs.1,71,484 crores for a period of five years from 2010-11 to 2014-15 for implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The estimates of funds cover recurring and non-recurring components including, *inter alia*, school infrastructure and facilities, child entitlements, teacher recruitment and teacher training and will be shared between the Central and the State Governments in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of the RTE Act. The RTE Act will come into force on such date as the Central Government may by notification in the official Gazette appoint. The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21-A in Part III Fundamental Rights of the Constitution of India. This Act has also not come into force.

Identification of deficiencies in higher education

1767. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as stated by Prime Minister, Government has concluded that the quality of education imparted in Indian institutes of higher education is far below the international standards;

(b) if so, the steps that have been and are being taken by Government to identify the deficiencies in higher education where standards are lacking; and

(c) whether any study group has been or is being set up to identify the deficiencies and to mitigate the same?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) While there are several institutions of world class quality in India, the general standards of higher education requires improvement to match international standards.

(b) Improvement of quality of higher education is a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the Eleventh Plan aiming at improvement of quality through increased allocation for improvement of infrastructure in the existing higher and technical educational institutions and by way of setting up of new quality institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards, quality institutions such as Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Schools for Planning and Architecture, establishment of 50 centres for training and research in frontier areas of Science and Technology etc.

Quality of teaching in higher education is a matter of great concern. When the Pay Review Committee recommendations in respect of teachers in colleges and universities were taken up by the Central Government, the salaries and other allowances for teachers, higher than those for the Group "A" Civil Services was agreed to by the Government on the condition that the eligibility conditions would be tightened and qualifications would be of a high order. The age of superannuation of teachers in higher education has also been increased from 62 year to 65 years. These steps would ensure that over time the best talent comes into the academic professions through a process of tightening entry and liberalizing pay and other incentives.

(c) No, Sir.

Government support to noncommercial public schools in Assam

1768. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 50 per cent of the non-commercial public schools in Assam run by public with Government concurrence are yet to be supported by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of such public institutes in Assam running without any support either from Central or State Government, category-wise;

(c) whether non-commercial colleges established and run by public are also deprived of UGC grants;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government proposes to launch any special scheme to cover the students and teachers of these deprived institutes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The matter pertains to the State Government of Assam. The Central Government has no scheme to support private unaided schools in Assam.

(c) to (f) University Grants Commission (UGC) provides development grants to the institutions of higher education which are covered under Section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956. Self financing institutions of higher education are not provided with financial assistance by UGC.

Establishment of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

1769. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to establish more Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Gujarat has requested Central Government for the establishment of an IISER in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?